

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1803

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a Veterans Business Center program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2009

Mr. NYE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a Veterans Business Center program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Business
5 Center Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

7 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
8 657b) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (f), by inserting “(other than
2 subsections (g), (h), and (i))” after “this section”;
3 and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(g) VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
7 tablish a Veterans Business Center program within
8 the Administration to provide entrepreneurial train-
9 ing and counseling to veterans in accordance with
10 this subsection.

11 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall ap-
12 point a Director of the Veterans Business Center
13 program, who shall implement and oversee such pro-
14 gram and who shall report directly to the Associate
15 Administrator for Veterans Business Development.

16 “(3) DESIGNATION OF VETERANS BUSINESS
17 CENTERS.—The Director shall establish by regula-
18 tion an application, review, and notification process
19 to designate entities as veterans business centers for
20 purposes of this section. The Director shall make
21 publicly known the designation of an entity as a vet-
22 erans business center and the award of a grant to
23 such center under this subsection.

24 “(4) FUNDING FOR VETERANS BUSINESS CEN-
25 TERS.—

1 “(A) INITIAL GRANTS.—The Director is
2 authorized to make a grant (hereinafter in this
3 subsection referred to as an ‘initial grant’) to
4 each veterans business center each year for not
5 more than 5 years in the amount of \$150,000.

6 “(B) GROWTH FUNDING GRANTS.—After a
7 veterans business center has received 5 years of
8 initial grants under subparagraph (A), the Di-
9 rector is authorized to make a grant (herein-
10 after in this subsection referred to as a ‘growth
11 funding grant’) to such center each year for not
12 more than 3 years in the amount of \$100,000.
13 After such center has received 3 years of
14 growth funding grants, the Director shall re-
15 quire such center to meet performance bench-
16 marks established by the Director to be eligible
17 for growth funding grants in subsequent years.

18 “(5) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each vet-
19 erans business center receiving a grant under this
20 subsection shall use the funds primarily on veteran
21 entrepreneurial development, counseling of veteran-
22 owned small businesses through one-on-one instruc-
23 tion and classes, and providing government procure-
24 ment assistance to veterans.

1 “(6) MATCHING FUNDS.—Each veterans busi-
2 ness center receiving a grant under this subsection
3 shall be required to provide a non-Federal match of
4 50 percent of the Federal funds such center receives
5 under this subsection. The Director may issue to a
6 veterans business center, upon request, a waiver
7 from all or a portion of such matching requirement
8 upon a determination of hardship.

9 “(7) TARGETED AREAS.—The Director shall
10 give priority to applications for designations and
11 grants under this subsection that will establish a
12 veterans business center in a geographic area, as de-
13 termined by the Director, that is not currently
14 served by a veterans business center and in which—

15 “(A) the population of veterans exceeds the
16 national median of such measure; or

17 “(B) the population of veterans of Oper-
18 ation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring
19 Freedom exceeds the national median of such
20 measure.

21 “(8) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Director shall
22 develop and implement, directly or by contract, an
23 annual training program for the staff and personnel
24 of designated veterans business centers to provide
25 education, support, and information on best prac-

1 tices with respect to the establishment and operation
2 of such centers. The Director shall develop such
3 training program in consultation with veterans busi-
4 ness centers, the interagency task force established
5 under subsection (c), and veterans service organiza-
6 tions.

7 “(9) INCLUSION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN
8 PROGRAM.—Upon the date of the enactment of this
9 subsection, each Veterans Business Outreach Center
10 established by the Administrator under the authority
11 of section 8(b)(17) and each center that received
12 funds during fiscal year 2006 from the National
13 Veterans Business Development Corporation estab-
14 lished under section 33 and that remains in oper-
15 ation shall be treated as designated as a veterans
16 business center for purposes of this subsection and
17 shall be eligible for grants under this subsection.

18 “(10) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this subsection \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and
21 \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

22 “(h) ADDITIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS
23 BUSINESS CENTERS.—

24 “(1) ACCESS TO CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
2 Veterans Business Center program shall estab-
3 lish a grant program under which the Director
4 is authorized to make, to veterans business cen-
5 ters designated under subsection (g), grants for
6 the following:

7 “(i) Developing specialized programs
8 to assist veteran-owned small businesses to
9 secure capital and repair damaged credit.

10 “(ii) Providing informational seminars
11 on securing loans to veteran-owned small
12 businesses.

13 “(iii) Providing one-on-one counseling
14 to veteran-owned small businesses to im-
15 prove the financial presentations of such
16 businesses to lenders.

17 “(iv) Facilitating the access of vet-
18 eran-owned small businesses to both tradi-
19 tional and non-traditional financing
20 sources.

21 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not
22 award a veterans business center more than
23 \$75,000 in grants under this paragraph.

24 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
25 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated

1 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each
2 of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

3 “(2) PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PRO-
4 GRAM.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
6 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-
7 tor is authorized to make, to veterans business
8 centers designated under subsection (g), grants
9 for the following:

10 “(i) Assisting veteran-owned small
11 businesses to identify contracts that are
12 suitable to such businesses.

13 “(ii) Preparing veteran-owned small
14 businesses to be ready as subcontractors
15 and prime contractors for contracts made
16 available through the American Recovery
17 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public
18 Law 111–5) through training and business
19 advisement, particularly with respect to the
20 construction trades.

21 “(iii) Providing veteran-owned small
22 businesses technical assistance with respect
23 to the Federal procurement process, in-
24 cluding assisting such businesses to comply

1 with Federal regulations and bonding re-
2 quirements.

3 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not
4 award a veterans business center more than
5 \$75,000 in grants under this paragraph.

6 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
7 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
8 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each
9 of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

10 “(3) SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED
11 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
13 tablish a grant program under which the Direc-
14 tor is authorized to make, to veterans business
15 centers designated under subsection (g), grants
16 for the following:

17 “(i) Developing outreach programs for
18 service-disabled veterans with respect to
19 the benefits of self-employment.

20 “(ii) Providing tailored training to
21 service-disabled veterans with respect to
22 business plan development, marketing,
23 budgeting, accounting, and merchandising.

1 “(iii) Assisting service-disabled vet-
2 eran-owned small businesses to locate and
3 secure business opportunities.

4 “(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not
5 award a veterans business center more than
6 \$75,000 in grants under this paragraph.

7 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
8 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
9 to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each
10 of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

11 “(i) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT
12 SUMMIT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Vet-
14 erans Business Center program is authorized to
15 carry out an event, once every two years, for the
16 purpose of providing networking opportunities, out-
17 reach, education, training, and support to veterans
18 business centers funded under this section, veteran-
19 owned small businesses, veterans service organiza-
20 tions, and other entities as determined appropriate
21 for inclusion by the Director.

22 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
23 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
24 this subsection \$450,000 for fiscal years 2010 and
25 2011.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**
2 **TASK FORCE.**

3 Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
4 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(4) REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit
6 to Congress biannually a report on the appointments
7 made to and activities of the task force.”.

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